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PMA FARM NEWS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Reserve

COTTON LOOKS UP

A cotton crop of 15,219,000 bales is forecast for this year by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Production in 1947 was 11,857,000 bales, and the 10-year average is 12,014,000 bales.

With a smaller-than-average abandonment of cotton in cultivation, 23,323,000 acres are expected to be left for harvest, around 2 million acres more than harvested in 1947. Lint yield per acre is computed at 313.2 pounds, an all-time high and 14.3 pounds above the previous record made in 1944; it compares with the 10-year average of 254.2 pounds.

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A DOLLAR FOR CONSERVATION

How much soil and water conservation can we expect for a dollar? About \$3 worth, says _____

Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee.

He also explains that if the total bill for conservation carried out under the 1948 Agricultural Conservation Program were evenly divided among all the people in the United States, it would come to just about one dollar per person.

This dollar per person is matched by another dollar which the farmer pays. Add to this the cost of the work which the farmer does, the additional conservation practices which he carries out on his own and for which he uses his own time and money and the total is at least three dollars worth of conservation for each dollar of assistance. In practice, the chairman points out, the assistance under the ACProgram serves as a leaven which stimulates a wide range of conservation activity.

As the chairman explains, "By putting up a dollar per person, the Nation helps to build terraces that check the run-off in heavy rains and in the spring when the snow is melting. More of the moisture goes into the ground to grow crops and feed springs during the summer. Valuable top-soil is held on the farm to continue to produce food for the Nation.

"The dollar helps to establish sod waterways that will keep the accumulated water from a terrace from starting gullies. Water so spread out soaks into the ground and the surplus is carried off without damage to the soil.

"The dollar helps to build dams that check erosion and furnish water for livestock. The additional watering places make it possible to get better distribution on the range so that the grass is not all eaten up or trampled to pieces around a few watering places. This protection to watersheds helps to keep soil from washing and blowing away."

These are just a few examples of how "the dollar per person" is being used to protect the soil -- the source of the Nation's food supply. As the chairman states, "It is food insurance -- for both the present and the future. The dollar helps to buy present and future food security.

"If we lose our soil we can't produce the food. If the food isn't produced, it means empty plates and empty stomachs."

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ACP COMMITTEEMEN ENGINEER PRACTICES

Special schools to train farmer committeemen to run levels and stake out dam sites have contributed greatly to the success of this Agricultural Conservation Program practice. In the State of Nebraska more than 900 committeemen have attended such schools.

More than 300,000 dams have been constructed under the Agricultural Conservation Program in the States of Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri.

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GOALS CALL FOR MORE HENS, PULLETS

To assure an abundance of eggs to meet high market demand, which is partially due to high meat prices, farmers should carry into next year the largest number of hens and pullets consistent with good poultry-management practices.

This is the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture in calling for a national production goal of 425 million hens and pullets on farms on January 1, 1949. It would mean keeping on farms a larger proportion of the summer flocks than in recent years, and would supply at least as many eggs per person as this year.

In both 1947 and 1948, U. S. consumers averaged 380 eggs apiece, compared with their prewar average of 298.

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CONSERVATION MEANS MORE MILK

Consumers' returns on the Nation's investment in soil and water conservation are many and varied, says _____, Chairman of the _____ County Agricultural Conservation Committee, but in general the principal benefit comes from the assurance of continued abundant production.

"Sometimes," says the chairman, "that abundant production comes quite unnoticed by consumers. It is accepted as a matter-of-course without thought or comment. Consumers who may not give a thought to where the milk for their tables comes from are benefiting from the conservation practices carried out under the Agricultural Conservation Program."

He cites the accomplishments in Mason County (Kentucky). Farmers there, with the help of the Program, established 64,389 acres of new pasture in the past 5 years, and 4,375 acres of established pastures were improved by additional seedings of legumes and grasses. These new and additional seedings included bluegrass, orchard grass, timothy, redbud, Kentucky 31 fescue, red clover, alsike clover, alfalfa, sweet clover, annual lespedeza, and ladino clover.

Other ACP practices carried out during the past year which contributed to the improvement of pastures and the strengthening of the dairy industry include the spreading of 8,757 tons of limestone, spreading of 461 tons of 20% phosphate and 159 tons of 47% phosphate, establishing 972 acres of winter cover crops consisting of crimson clover, hairy vetch, wheat, rye, barley, oats or mixtures of these crops and the development of 11 stockwater ponds.

To illustrate what this means in terms of milk, the chairman quotes from Ira D. Hicks, Mason County farmer and chairman of the county ACP committee: "When I bought the farm I now own, I took over a herd of 10 cows and increased the number to 23 by keeping heifers from the best cows."

The Kentucky farmers more than doubled the number of cows and more than doubled the amount of milk from the same number of acres. "And this," says the chairman, "is what the conservation program is doing for the consumer. Conservation assures abundant production now and continued abundant production in the future."

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F O R Y O U R I N F O R M A T I O N

BANKERS TO HEAR ABOUT ACP

Out in Kansas, the State Executive Officer will accompany the speakers who will appear on nine district programs sponsored by the Kansas Bankers' Association in October and November. Plans are also being considered in the State Office for setting up a mailing list of bankers and elevators so that timely information on ACP can be mailed to both groups, thus improving relations and creating better understanding.

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